

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MTN GE 09320 161928Z

44

ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 STRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 TAR-01 TRSE-00

PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 /096 W

----- 058218

O P 161840Z DEC 75

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 942

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

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PASS STR FOR ACTION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJECT: MTN: US-EC CONSULTATIONS JAN 22

1. AS FOLLOW-UP TO CONVERSATIONS AT TIME OF TNC, CULBERT AND I MET WITH LUYTEN AND ABBOTT DEC 16 TO ATTEMPT TO REFINE OUR RESPECTIVE APPROACHES TO CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF US-EC BILATERAL MEETING ON MTN ISSUES TO BE HELD IN BRUSSELS JAN 22 (AND, IF NECESSARY, JAN 23 ALTHOUGH WE ASCERTAINED TODAY THAT EC HAD UNDERSTOOD INTENT WAS ONE-DAY MEETING).

2. LUYTEN SAID HIS GUIDANCE CAME FROM HIJZEN NOT RPT NOT GUNDELACH. EC PREFERENCE AT THE MOMENT WAS STILL TO SELECT WELL IN ADVANCE OF JAN 22 A LIMITED LIST OF TOPICS FOR CONCENTRATED ATTENTION BASED ON CRITERIA OF (A) URGENCY, (B) INTRINSIC IMPORTANCE OF TOPIC, AND (C) WHERE THERE ARE KNOWN DIVERGENCIES BETWEEN U.S. AND EC VIEWS.

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PAGE 02 MTN GE 09320 161928Z

PURPOSE OF CONSULTATION IN HIJZEN'S VIEW WOULD BE TO

EXPOSE TOP LEVELS ON BOTH SIDES, I.E., SOAMES (IF HE HAS RETURNED TO DUTY EARLY JAN AS EXPECTED), GUNDELACH, RABOT, HIJZEN, TO FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS IN EACH AREA SELECTED AND TO ATTEMPT TO NARROW DIFFERENCES IN SUBSTANCE AND TO DECIDE RELATIVE PRIORITIES FOR ATTENTION. EC INCLINED TO THINK THAT FOR SUCH DISCUSSION TO BE REALISTIC, NECESSARY SENIOR EXPERT LEVEL SHOULD ALSO BE PRESENT FROM BOTH SIDES.

3. I RESPONDED THAT FOREGOING APPROACH DIFFERED FROM OUR PRESENT CONCEPTION IN THAT WE HAD IN MIND A "MANAGEMENT" SESSION ALONG LINES GUNDELACH DISCUSSED WITH AMB DENT IN WASHINGTON. THE SUGGESTED OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE TO OBTAIN BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WHERE EACH SIDE STANDS WITH RESPECT TO PROCEDURAL HANDLING, TIMING, AND MANAGEMENT OF ISSUES RATHER THAN ATTEMPTING TO SETTLE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. LUYTEN COMMENTED PRESENCE OF DENT AND SOAMES PROBABLY UNNECESSARY FOR THIS PURPOSE. I QUESTIONED THIS ON GROUNDS TOP LEVELS OF BOTH SIDES NEEDED TO BE PRESENT IN ORDER TO GIVE DIRECTION TO FLOW OF WORK AND PRIORITIES IN ORDER TO MAKE THE MOST OF TIME AVAILABLE IN 1976. I ALSO SAID THE IDEA OF RESOLVING MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES AS EARLY AS JAN 22 SEEMED IMPROBABLE.

4. EC FLOATED IDEA OF TWO LISTS OF TOPICS, THE FIRST COMPOSED OF A FEW IMPORTANT SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES (SINE QUANON TO INVOLVE TOP LEVEL ACCORDING TO HIJZEN) AND A SECOND LIST OF MANAGEMENT-TYPE ISSUES WHICH MIGHT BE PREPARED AT NON-POLITICAL LEVEL AND "TAKEN NOTE OF" BY PRINCIPALS. RE FIRST LIST, LUYTEN SAID AGRICULTURE, SPECIFICALLY INCLUDING SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAILING DUTIES, CLEARLY BELONGED ON ANY AGENDA. HE THOUGHT STANDARDS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED (WITH SCHLOSSER AND KELLY PRESENT) IN ORDER TO ACQUAINT TOP LEVELS WITH THE REALITY OF SUCH GUT ISSUES AS APPLICABILITY OF CODE BY U.S. STATES, THIRD COUNTRY ACCESS TO REGIONAL CERTIFICATION SCHEMES, AND PERHAPS NOTION OF ADVANCE CIRCULATION OF DRAFT STANDARDS -- LATTER BEING A POINT SCHLOSSER--WITH GUNDELACH SUPPORT--CONSIDERS UNACCEPTABLE) AND ISSUE OF SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MTN GE 09320 161928Z

INCLUDING CONCEPT OF RELATIVE RECIPROCITY. LUYTEN SAID THAT PRIOR TO MEETING TODAY HE HAD HOPED TARIFFS WOULD FIGURE ON EC LIST, BUT IN VIEW MY REAFFIRMATION U.S. WOULD BE UNABLE TO SAY MUCH ABOUT U.S. PREFERRED TARIFF CUTTING FORMULA PRIOR TO MID-LATE MARCH, LUYTEN AGREED NO NEED TO ANTICIPATE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF THIS JAN 22. LUYTEN SAID GRAINS WAS A QUESTION MARK IN HIS MIND, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF IWC LONDON MEETING JAN 21 AND GENEVA SUBGROUP

JAN 22 AND ACCORDINGLY UNCLEAR WHAT IF ANYTHING PRINCIPALS
COULD SAY ABOUT TOPIC IN BRUSSELS.

5. I SUGGESTED JAN 22 MEETING SHOULD INCLUDE REVIEW
OF WHERE BOTH SIDES STAND ON SECTORS, SUPPLY ACCESS AND
REFORM OF GATT ALONG WITH ALL OTHER ITEMS AS PART OF A
FULL TOUR D'HORIZON, THOUGH NOT FULLY RULING OUT SUB-
STANTIVE ATTENTION TO SOME ITEMS. LUYTEN/ABBOTT
EXPRESSED SOME CONSTERNATION THAT WE INTENDED TO PRESS FOR
SERIOUS WORK IN 1976 ON ALL THESE ISSUES AND THAT THE
FULL RANGE SHOULD BE EXPLORED JAN 22. I REPLIED WE DID
INDEED INTEND TO PRESS FOR AS MUCH PROGRESS AS FEASIBLE
IN ALL AREAS THROUGHOUT 1976 AND EC ACCEPTANCE OF AND
COOPERATION WITH SUCH AN APPROACH WAS CONSIDERED BY US AS
A MAJOR PURPOSE OF JAN 22 CONSULTATIONS. THEY TOOK
NOTE BUT CAUTIONED THAT TOO AMBITIOUS A WORK PROGRAM
COULD SCARE OFF THE EC COMMISSION.

6. BOTH SIDES AGREED JAN 22 MEETING WOULD HAVE TO
ADDRESS QUESTION OF FOLLOW-UP SESSIONS, E.G. HOW
OFTEN, WHERE, AND WHAT LEVEL. EC OF COURSE CONSIDERS
BRUSSELS MORE CONVENIENT FOR THEM BUT DOES NOT RULE
OUT ONE OR MORE FOLLOW-UPS IN WASHINGTON, HOPEFULLY COIN-
CIDING IN TIME WITH SCHEDULED SEMIANNUAL US-EC ECONOMIC
CONSULTATIONS. GENEVA SITE RAISES PROBLEMS WITH
MEMBER STATES.

7. LUYTEN AND I AGREED TO REPORT OUR CONVERSATION AND
SEEK FURTHER GUIDANCE ASAP. LUYTEN HAD IN MIND FINALIZING
AGENDA AND UNDERSTANDING ON WHAT IS EXPECTED TO TRANSPIRE
DURING WEEK OF JAN 5-9. I EXPRESSE HOPE WE COULD DO
SO MUCH EARLIER, PRIOR TO CHRISTMAS DAY, IF FEASIBLE.
HE TOOK NOTE BUT MADE NO PROMISE.
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PAGE 04 MTN GE 09320 161928Z

8. COMMENT: WE ARE NOT FAR APART, IT SEEMS TO ME, ON
IDENTIFICATION OF MAJOR ISSUES THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED
JAN 22. ONLY REAL DIFFERENCE, AND IT IS A BIG ONE, IS
WHETHER WE ARE WILLING TO ENTER A CONSULTATION AS EARLY
AS JAN 22 AIMED AT "PROBLEM SOLVING." I DO NOT REALLY
THINK EC WILL BE ANY BETTER PREPARED FOR THIS THAN WE
WILL BE AND THERE IS SERIOUS RISK IN MY VIEW THAT IT
COULD LEAD TO PRECISELY WHAT WE HOPE TO AVOID, NAMELY
A PREMATURE CONFRONTATION AND THROWING UP OF HANDS ON
ONE SIDE OR ANOTHER THAT A PARTICULAR ISSUE IS "TOO
COMPLICATED" OR HOPELESS AND THEREFORE MUST BE PUT ON ICE
FOR INDEFINITE PERIOD WITH NO SERIOUS WORK. IT IS
APPARENT THEY EITHER DO NOT OR DON'T WANT TO UNDERSTAND OUR
"MANAGEMENT-ORIENTED" APPROACH AND HAVE NOT GOTTEN

GUIDANCE FROM GUNDELACH. I RECOMMEND USEC BRUSSELS BE
ASKED TO RAISE MATTER AGAIN WITH GUNDELACH AND TRY TO GET
IT ON TRACK. THIS SHOULD BE DONE ASAP SO WORK CAN BE
DONE ON AGENDA HERE IN GENEVA BEFORE EC STAFF SCATTERS FOR
HOLIDAYS. END COMMENT. WALKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, MEETINGS, TRADE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MTNGE09320
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750437-0405
From: MTN GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751235/aaaabfgo.tel
Line Count: 174
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION STR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MTN: US-EC CONSULTATIONS JAN 22
TAGS: ETRD, US, EEC
To: STATE EC BRUSSELS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006